

NOMINATION TO THE ACT HERITAGE REGISTER

Please note that the information below represents indicative heritage values only, and not the views of the ACT Heritage Council (the Council).

This nomination is yet to be assessed by the Council against the heritage significance criteria established under the Heritage Act 2004.

Acceptance of a nomination is a preliminary, threshold step and ought not to be taken as indicative of any particular outcome concerning the Council's assessment of the nomination.

Block 1249 TUGGERANONG Royalla Woolshed (Royalla Shearing Shed) TUGGERANONG

The Royalla woolshed is a good example of vernacular, rural Australian architecture and bush innovation. The woolshed was built at the end of a severe economic depression and drought when the price of wool was low and the rural industry was in crisis. Rather than use costly, industrially manufactured wooden frameworks and supports, the builders collected and hand-tooled local raw material and constructed the framework of the woolshed on-site.

The Royalla Woolshed possesses strong aesthetic qualities illustrating a turn of the century rural shearing shed set in a grazing landscape on the edge of a city. Its very location bordering the Monaro Highway, a major link between Canberra and the Southern Highlands, enhances its visual characteristics as an important reminder of Canberra's early and continuing rural history that is readily viewed.

The Royalla Woolshed presents a strong example of the nature of its time and place in the local, regional and national history. The construction of the Royalla Woolshed in 1907 coincides with the breaking of the nine-year drought, one of the worst in Australia's pastoral history.

The woolshed and the Royalla property has strong links with the McDonalds, one of the many families brought out from Scotland by Robert Campbell to work and manage his extensive holdings in Canberra region. Many of these families were suffering hard economic times in Scotland. They sought the new opportunities offered to them in the developing grazing areas of the Canberra region and, with their work on the land, were pioneers of the rural development of this area.